

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

THE UPS AND DOWNS

ELEVATOR SAFETY DIVISION NEWSLETTER VOLUME 1, JUNE 1, 2008

Welcome to the forth edition of the Ups and Downs. We continue to get good reviews and I look forward to getting your feedback on what you are looking for in future newsletters. Remember, if any of you want to contribute your ideas, questions, or concerns, to this newsletter, we will be glad to address them here.

Ralph P. Pat

DO I HAVE TO INSTALL A SUMP PUMP IN MY ELEVATOR PIT?

I get this question often. Do I have to have a sump pump in my elevator pit?

To determine if a sump pump is required, I like to start with the elevator code.

A17.1 (I will be using the 2004 edition for this article). Section 2.2.2.3 states:

“Permanente provisions shall be made to prevent accumulation of ground water in the pit.” This is going to apply to any elevator, new or old. Then we have to go on to:

A17.1 2.2.2.3 Firefighters' Emergency Operation: states “Firefighters' Emergency Operation shall apply to all automatic elevators except (a) where the hoistway or a portion thereof is not required to be fire-resistive construction (see 2.1.1.1), the travel does not exceed 2000 mm (80 in.), and the hoistway does not penetrate a floor. So, barring those exceptions, the elevator will need fire service.

A17.1 2.2.2.5 states: In elevators provided with Firefighters' Emergency Operation, a drain or sump pump shall be provided. If it is determined you need a sump pump, it must conform to

A17.1 2.2.2.4 “Drains and sump pumps, where provide shall comply with the applicable plumbing code, and they shall be provided with a positive means to prevent water, gases, and odors from entering the hoistway.”

A17.1 2.2.2.6 “Sumps and sump pumps in pits, where provided shall be covered. The cover shall be secured and level with the pit floor. Sump pumps are required to be piped in accordance with the state plumbing code.”

In almost all cases an oil separator is required when a hydraulic elevator is used. Note that the elevator code does not prohibit using storm drains or sewers, as long as the plumbing code is followed. I hope this information helps and remember, it is intended as a guide to help you, help yourselves.

NOTE: New code requirement.

A17.1 2007 section 2.2.2.5 requires “The pump/drain shall have the capacity to remove a minimum of 3,000 gal/h per elevator.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Do I have to have a sump pump in my elevator pit?*
- *Letters from the Chief*
- *Elevator Safety Review Board Composition*

Factoid...

I am often asked ..”What edition of the elevator code are we under?”

Our statute mandates that:

“The board shall adopt the latest editions of the standards within six months of their effective date.”

The board has allowed for automatic adoption in its rules and regulations, so it is an automatic process.

Some states are still working under the 1996 code because their codes are adopted through their Legislature.

That can sometimes prove to be a long slow process. Automatic adoption is not without it's problems too. Look at the drastic changes from 1996 to the 2000 code. Without a chance to review the new code, Such changes can prove costly, quickly!



LETTERS FROM THE CHIEF

For your benefit, I have reproduced in this section, previous letters that address some of the day to day questions we receive. This first letter was issued from this office as an aid to contractors concerning what size elevator car would be needed to comply with the International Building Code's stretcher requirements. The second letter on page 4 addressed how this office handles a request for a temporary certificate of operation. We are happy to provide anyone with copies of the original letters if you want.

March 18, 2008

To: All Elevator Companies, Interested Parties

From: Ralph P. Pate, Chief Elevator Inspector

RE: Stretcher Requirements for buildings four or more floors

"We will be requiring proof of which International Building Code the building is being constructed by, if the elevator does not meet the requirements of IBC, 2006 Edition. "

The International Building Code, 2006 Edition, Rule 3002.4 requires buildings serving four (4) or more floors above or below ground plane, to have at least one elevator provide for fire emergency access to all floors.

The elevator shall accommodate a twenty-four (24) inch by (84) inch ambulance stretcher in the horizontal, open position and shall be identified by the international symbol for emergency medical services (star of life). This requirement is in effect for all buildings subject to Section 25-13-1 through 25-13-25 of the Code of Alabama 1975.

In order to assist those persons who wish to install an elevator that will accommodate this requirement, this office is providing the following information compiled from other states and industry standards. This information is provided as a courtesy only. The installer is responsible to verify with the manufacture that their equipment will provide for the requirements of the International Building Code.

A standard 3,500 pound capacity elevator with a forty-two (42") inch single slide door with a minimum clear inside width of eighty (80") inches and a minimum clear inside depth of sixty-five (65") Inches, will be considered as meeting these requirements.

A standard 4,000 pound capacity elevator with forty-eight (48") Inch center opening door and a minimum clear inside width of ninety-two (92") inches and a minimum depth of sixty-five (65") inches, will be considered meeting these requirements.

A hospital shaped elevator allowing the stretcher to roll straight into the elevator, which meets other handicap requirements, will be acceptable.

For any other elevator to be considered as meeting the twenty-four (24") inch by eighty-four (84") inch stretcher requirements, the manufacturer and/or Installer shall provide proof, if requested, that the elevator will accommodate a stretcher of the size Indicated.

We will be requiring proof of which International Building Code the building is being constructed by, if the elevator does not meet the requirements of IBC, 2006 Edition.

If you have any questions, or if I may be of assistance, please contact me at 334 242-3066.

ELEVATOR SAFETY REVIEW BOARD (CONTINUED)



"THE BOARD SHALL ALSO HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO GRANT EXCEPTIONS AND VARIANCES FROM THE LITERAL REQUIREMENTS OF APPLICABLE CODE AND STANDARDS, REGULATIONS, AND/OR LOCAL LEGISLATION, IN CASES WHERE SUCH VARIANCES WOULD NOT JEOPARDIZE THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND WELFARE".

If you read the March edition of the Ups and Downs, the article on the Elevator Safety Review Board was to continue with this edition.

ELEVATOR SAFETY REVIEW BOARD - POWERS AND DUTIES.

(a) The board shall be authorized to consult with engineering authorities and organizations concerned with standard safety codes, rules and regulations governing the operation, maintenance, servicing, construction, alteration, installation, and inspection of elevators, dumbwaiters, escalators, and the qualifications which are adequate, reasonable, and necessary for an elevator mechanic, contractor, and inspector.

Therefore, the board shall be authorized to recommend the amendments of applicable legislation, when appropriate, to legislators.

(b) The board shall establish regulations for the equipment regulated by this chapter.

The regulations shall include the Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators, ASME A17.1; the Safety Code for Existing Elevators and Escalators, ASME A17.3; the Safety Standards for Platform Lifts and Stairway Chairlifts, ASME A18.1; Standard for the Qualification of Elevator Inspectors, ASME QE1-1; and Automated People Mover Standards, ASCE 21.

The board shall adopt the

latest editions of the standards within six months of their effective date. Any modifications to the standards that the administrator deems necessary shall be justified in writing by the board.

(c) The board shall also have the authority to grant exceptions and variances from the literal requirements of applicable code and standards, regulations, and/or local legislation, in cases where such variances would not jeopardize the public safety and welfare.

The board shall have the authority to hear appeals, hold hearings, and decide upon such appeal within 30 days of the appeal.

(d) The board shall establish fee schedules for licenses, permits, certificates, and inspections. The fees shall reflect the actual costs and expenses to conduct the duties as described in this chapter. All fees collected by the administrator pursuant to this chapter shall be remitted to the Elevator Safety Review Board Operational Fund in the State General Fund to the credit of the board for its operation.

(e) The board shall be subject to the Alabama Sunset Law, Chapter 20, Title 41, as an enumerated agency as provided in Section 41-20-3, and shall have a termination date every four years thereafter, unless continued pursuant to the Alabama Sunset Law.

Temporary Mechanics Licenses

A temporary mechanics license is allowed by statute. When workloads require additional manpower, supervisor's determine the need, who is qualified and must do all the following when requesting a TM license:

1. On company letterhead you must request the Temporary License and certify that the applicant has 2 years minimum experience and acceptable combination of documented experience and education to perform elevator work without direct and immediate supervision.

2. The request must be notarized.

3. There will be a \$50.00 processing fee to be attached to the written request.

As a courtesy we will allow three 30 day licenses to be issued in sequence. (\$150.00) The Temporary Mechanic License will recite that it is valid for thirty (30) days from date of issuance and while the person is employed by the licensed elevator contractor who certified the individual as qualified.

The license shall be renewable as needed, for \$50.00 each renewal. The Temporary Mechanic License must be present while the while work is being performed.



LETTERS FROM THE CHIEF (CONTINUED)

TO: Licensed Elevator Contractors, Others

FROM: Ralph Pate, Chief Elevator Inspector

RE: Elevator or Related Conveyance Temporary Certificate of Operation

In order to facilitate the general contractor in obtaining a certificate of occupancy of a building, or any other valid reason, it may be necessary to request an elevator "temporary certificate of operation" that will be good for 90 day's as provided for in the elevator statute.

This can sometimes allow the general public to utilize the elevator safely until all requirements can be met.

A temporary certificate of operation may be issued at the discretion of the chief inspector if requested by the elevator contractor and the inspector. This request must be submitted by the inspector in the form of an inspection report, along with the required fee. The fee required for the certificate and inspection is as follows:

\$100.00 must be submitted with the inspection report at the time of the request. The remaining \$160.00 will be paid to the inspector as determined at the time of the inspection. Any violations that would prevent the elevator from receiving a temporary certificate of operation must be completed prior to sending in the inspection report.

The elevator must have all safety devices properly tested and witnessed by the inspector. The inspector along with the elevator contractor must decide if an elevator operator will be required. If so, the operator must receive proper training by the elevator contractor.

If an operator will be stationed in the elevator during operation, no working phone is required during temporary operation. The operator will be required to have some form of 2-way communication.

When the inspection report and fee is received in this office, the inspector is certifying the elevator is safe for this type service. If there are any questions concerning this temporary certificate of operation from any interested party, please contact Ralph Pate at 334. 242.3066.



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